

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, lines 13-21 to read as shown below.

The laser device 110 preferably also includes a cooling device and a system controller 185, the tasks of which include the control of the power of the laser radiation, the pulse duration, and the frequency of the laser pulse. Furthermore display and control devices can be integrated into the laser device 110, enabling the specific application modes and the system settings to be selected. In addition, the laser device 110 can include appropriate safety devices, both for the electrical and the optical sections. Preferably, the system controller 185 possesses appropriate devices to enable the open and closed-loop control of the laser system 100 to be carried out by software programs. In this respect, some exemplary embodiment are particularly advantageous in which software programs can be replaced during an update.

Please amend the paragraph on page 7, lines 9-14 to read as shown below.

The RFID system typically includes two components, which are the transponder 130 (mentioned above), which can be fitted to the light guide 120 to be identified, and a readout device 170 with antenna unit 140 which can be realized depending on the version both as a readout device and as a writing/readout device. This readout device 170 can alternatively be coupled to a local computer network. The readout device 170 can be preferably connected to the system controller 185 of the laser device 110.

Please amend the paragraph on page 7, lines 15-22 to read as shown below.

The readout device 170 preferably includes a control unit and a radio frequency (RF) interface. The principal task of the readout device 170 is the activation of the transponder 130, the establishment of a communication, and the transport of the data between the application software of the system controller 185 for the laser device 110 and the contactless data medium. For both directions of data flow from and to the transponder 130, there are typically two separate signal trains within the RF interface available. Data that is transported to the transponder 130 can pass through the transmitter branch. In contrast, data that is received from the transponder 130 can be processed in the receiver branch.

Please amend the paragraph on page 11, lines 9-17 to read as shown below.

The antenna 140 can be coupled with a radio frequency interface, which in turn can be connected to a control unit. Reception and transmission data can be interchanged with the radio frequency interface by the control unit. The control unit can be preferably connected with the system controller 185 of the laser device 110. It can then be possible for the light guide 120 data read out of the transponder 130 to be output via the radio frequency interface and passed to the system controller 185 via the control unit. The system controller 185 can indicate the necessary system settings by instructions on the display device 180 or carry out appropriate system settings automatically, whereby erroneous operation of the laser device 110 with the light guide 120 used can be minimized.

Please amend the paragraph on page 11, line 18 to page 12, line 3 to read as shown below.

Typically this is relevant to settings of the maximum pulse energy or duration and to the maximum number of laser pulses passed via the light guide 120 to the point of application. Furthermore, it can alternatively record whether the light guide 120 is a light guide 120 for multiple use or whether an expendable light guide 120 is being used. In the latter case, with the application of expendable therapeutic fibers, provision can alternatively be made for reading out and evaluating appropriate application data from the transponder 130 coupled to the expendable light guide 120. Moreover, for the case where the expendable therapeutic light guide 120 has been used, an appropriate warning signal can be displayed on the display device 180 or the emission of a laser pulse via the light guide 120 can be inhibited.

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, lines 12-18 to read as shown below.

Fig. 3 shows a flow chart for the schematic sequence 300 of data communication between the transmitter and receiver device of the laser device 110 or of the above mentioned handpiece and the transponder 130 connected to the light guide 120 according to exemplary embodiments of the invention. In step 310 either the system controller 185 of the laser device 110 or the control unit can initiate the start of the program routines. In step 320 the identity data can be read out of the transponder 130. If the readout of the identity data is not possible, an appropriate warning signal can be displayed on the display device 180 or the emission of laser pulses can be inhibited.

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, line 19 to page 13, line 7 to read as shown below.

Typically this is relevant to settings of the maximum pulse energy or duration and to the maximum number of laser pulses passed via the light guide 120 to the point of application. Furthermore, it can alternatively record whether the light guide 120 is a light guide 120 for multiple use or whether an expendable light guide 120 is being used. In the latter case, with the application of expendable therapeutic fibers, provision can alternatively be made for reading out and evaluating appropriate application data from the transponder 130 coupled to the expendable light guide 120. Moreover, for the case where the expendable therapeutic light guide 120 has been used, an appropriate warning signal can be displayed on the display device 180 or the emission of a laser pulse via the light guide 120 can be inhibited.

Please amend the paragraph on page 13, lines 8-14 to read as shown below.

In step 330 the appropriate identity data can be passed via the control unit of the radio frequency interface to the system controller 185 of the laser device 110. This identity data can preferably contain information about the manufacturer, the end date for usage, an average transmission power, a maximum transmission power, the type designation, and/or a fiber diameter of the light guide 120. Furthermore, additional data for the identification of the light guide 120, such as the production number, batch number, production date, or similar, can be saved in the transponder 130.

Please amend the paragraph on page 13, lines 15-24 to read as shown below.

According to the data, the system controller 185 can carry out, as already mentioned, system settings in the laser device 110, i.e. the laser power, pulse duration, or the maximum possible number of laser pulses can be automatically set. Alternatively, provision can be made in that with manual operation of the laser device 110, the system controller 185 can output appropriate warning signals or correction suggestions via the display device 180 when incorrect parameters are set. In this way it can be ensured that erroneous operation of the laser device 110 in conjunction with the light guide 120 is prevented. The risk of setting laser energies and laser pulse durations which would lead to the destruction of the light guide 120 or to an incorrect treatment is consequently minimized.

Please amend the paragraph on page 14, lines 1-7 to read as shown below.

In step 340 the reception of the RF interface to/at the transponder 130 is checked. In this way it can be ensured that appropriate application data, such as for example, the laser pulse energy and laser pulse duration, can also be written into the transponder 130. If no reception to/at the transponder 130 is possible, an appropriate warning signal can be displayed via the display device 180 in step 350. The sequence of the control then starts again at step 320 with the reading out of identification data from the transponder 130. If an appropriate reliable reception to/at the transponder 130 is established, the sequence continues with step 360.

Please amend the paragraph on page 14, lines 8-16 to read as shown below.

In step 360, the appropriate system setting is recorded via the system controller 185 and passed to the control unit of the radio frequency interface. In step 370, the application data determined by the system controller 185 is passed to the transponder 130 and written to it. In step 380, the system controller 185 or the controller of the radio frequency interface checks whether further laser pulses are emitted for the laser application. For the case where further laser pulses are emitted for the laser application, the controller continues with step 320. Otherwise the control process is terminated with step 390. Alternatively, an identification of the light guide 120 manufacturer can also be read out from the transponder 130 in step 320 and evaluated to check whether the light guide 120 was made by an authorized manufacturer.

Please amend the paragraph on page 14, line 17 to page 15, line 2 to read as shown below.

Fig. 4 shows a schematic illustration 400 of an overview of the application data saved in the transponder 130 according to exemplary embodiments of the invention. The system controller 185 can determine the relevant date 401 and time 402 of the application as well as the corresponding laser pulse energy 403 and the laser pulse duration 404. This information can be transmitted together with an identification number 405 of the laser device 110 to the transponder 130 via the control unit of the RF interface. Here, each individual laser pulse, which has been emitted through the light guide 120 by the laser device 110, can be recorded in the transponder 130, as already described above and provided with an incremental number.